THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The National list of Essential Medicines, 2003 has been made available on the CDSCO Website.

(b) to (c) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Testing of Procured Blood

1372. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines set by the National AIDS Control Organisation with regard to tests to be conducted for the procured blood from every donor to detect HIV and Hepatitis;

(b) whether even/Government, private, corporate or society owned blood banks are fully equipped technically to detect HIV and Hepatitis as per the guidelines, to control spreading of AIDS through blood transfusion;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would enact a law, making it mandatory for every blood bank in India to fully equip technically to detect HIV and hepatitis with heavy penal action in the event of not implementing the law; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a)Yes, Sir, National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) had issued guidelines to all States/ UTs in the country to ensure that all blood units collected/procured from every donor should be mandatorily tested for Transfusion Transmissible Diseases (TTDs) i.e. HIV, Hepatitis- B, Hepatitis-C, Syphilis and malaria. These

guidelines are in line with the National Blood Policy adopted by the Government of India in April, 2002.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Every blood bank operating in the country has to be fully equipped. This is a requirement to be fulfilled before obtaining a license from the State Drug Authority. As per the specifications provided for obtaining a license, necessary facilities in terms of physical infrastructure, technical equipments and specific laboratory facilities for conducting tests for various Transfusion Transmissible Diseases (TTDs) including HIV have to be in place. Such provisions cover all blood banks including Government, private, corporate and society blood banks in the country.

(d) There are already existing provisions under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules 1945 (amended in 2001), whereby any blood bank without a valid license/renewed license cannot operate in the country.

Every blood bank has to equip technically, to be eligible for obtaining a licence. The licence is issued/renewed only when the blood bank complies with requirements laid down under the rules after verification by the competent inspecting authority.

(e) Does not arise.

Shortage of Doctors and Staff in CGHS Dispensaries

1373. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of Doctors and other supporting staff in various CGHS dispensaries in the Capital.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that emergency services in certain dispensaries have been discontinued and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the same are likely to be started again?